



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Daniel R. Ebert, Chairperson

610 North Whitnev Way

July 13, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: US Cellular Corporation, US Cellular Operating Company, LLC, Green Bay Celltelco, Kenosha Cellular Telephone, L.P., Madison Cellular Telephone Company, Racine Cellular Telephone Company, and Lacrosse Cellular Telephone Company Petition for Waiver of the Federal Communications Commission's Rules for Filing Sample Lifeline Verification Data and for Declaratory Ruling Regarding the Commission's Lifeline Verification Rules  
WC Docket No. 03-109 (June 17, 2005)

Wisconsin RSA #4 Limited Partnership, Wausau Cellular Telephone Limited Partnership, Nsighttel Wireless, LLC, Metro Southwest PCS, LLP, Wisconsin RSA #10, and Brown County MSA Cellular Limited Partnership Request for Declaratory Ruling Regarding the Federal Communications Commission's Lifeline Verification Rules  
WC Docket No. 03-109 (June 17, 2005)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify the Lifeline-related situation of Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers that have been designated as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC).

In the above-referenced requests, the petitioners have stated that they understand that the petitioners' Lifeline customers are excluded from the PSC's certification and verification procedures. As a result, the petitioners wish to follow FCC rules and to submit sample Lifeline verification data to USAC, but one petitioner requests that it be granted an extension for doing so. Petitioners also ask for a declaratory ruling that when a state has designated an ETC but will not accept verification data for customers in the state, the appropriate course is to follow the certification and verification rules for federal default states.

We believe there is confusion on Lifeline and Link-up requirements in Wisconsin and this letter will clarify the situation. When the PSC designated the petitioners as ETCs, it stated that they must meet the federal eligibility requirements for ETC designation but did not need to meet the additional eligibility requirements in the state's administrative rule pertaining to ETCs. The PSC further stated that the petitioners were subject to the ETC obligations under federal law. Finally, the PSC stated that the petitioners are only eligible for federal universal service fund monies.

One of the federal ETC obligations, of course, is to participate in Lifeline and Link-up programs. Wisconsin has a Lifeline and a Link-up program.

When it comes to Lifeline and Link-up, the FCC and Wisconsin programs work in tandem. Consequently, the Wisconsin ETC decisions that reference FCC obligations and federal reimbursement would not affect the obligation of the ETCs to follow other Wisconsin Lifeline and Link-up rules. CMRS providers that have been designated as ETCs are to use, like all other Lifeline and Link-up providers in Wisconsin, the state Lifeline and Link-up eligibility criteria when determining whether a particular customer is eligible for the programs. In determining whether the state eligibility requirements have been or continue to be satisfied by a particular customer, CMRS providers must follow the same verification procedures under the Wisconsin administrative rules as all other ETCs in the state. Because the ETCs are following the Wisconsin Lifeline rules, the FCC certification and verification provisions that are the subject of the petitions would not apply.

Hopefully this clarifies the situation of the petitioners in the above-referenced cases.

Sincerely,

/s/ **Gary A. Evenson**

Gary A. Evenson  
Administrator  
Telecommunications Division